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1. (Amended) A network apparatus comprising:

a management station configured to output a plurality of commands to a plurality of managed devices for stimulating responses from the managed devices,

wherein the management station is configured to identify responding ones of the managed devices by selectively transmitting subsequent commands that are different from the prior commands.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to execute a Simple Network Management Protocol management program.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to communicate with the managed devices using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communications.

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5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the received responses comprise failed responses.

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to compare individual received responses with a device table to identify the device types of responding one of the managed devices.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the management station is configured to apply management commands to respective identified managed devices, the applied management commands individually correspond to respective device types of the identified managed devices.

8. (Amended) A network comprising:

a management station configured to output a first command from a plurality of commands to a managed device to identify the managed device, wherein the management station selectively outputs a second command from the plurality of commands to the managed device if the first command does not provide unique identification of the managed device, the second command being different from the first command.

9. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station and the managed device are individually configured to execute a Simple Network Management Protocol program.

10. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to communicate with the management device using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol.

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12. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein a received response associated with the first command comprises a failed response.

13. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to compare a response from the managed device with a device table to identify device type.

14. (Amended) The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to apply a management command to an identified managed device, the applied management command individually corresponds to a device type of the identified managed device.

15. (Amended) A computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code configured to cause a management station to communicate a plurality of initial commands to a plurality of managed devices of a network;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to identify the managed devices based upon a plurality of initial responses from the managed devices;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to transmit subsequent commands to the responding ones of the managed devices if the identities are not determined, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands; and

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices.

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16. The product according to claim 15 further comprising computer usable data comprising a device table corresponding to the managed devices.

CLAIM 17 CANCELLED

18. (Amended) The product according to claim 15 wherein the received initial responses comprise failed responses.

19. The product according to claim 15 further comprising:
computer usable data including a state transition table including a plurality of identifiers; and
computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to compare the received initial responses with the identifiers to identify the device types of the respective responding managed devices.

20. The product according to claim 15 further comprising computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to apply a plurality of management commands to respective identified managed devices, the applied management commands individually correspond to respective device types of the identified managed devices.

21. The product according to claim 15 further comprising computer usable data including a node table comprising a plurality of node locations for respective managed devices.

22.

(Amended) A management station operational method comprising:

outputting a plurality of initial commands to managed devices using a management station to stimulate initial responses from the managed devices;

determining identities of the managed devices based on received initial responses; and

selectively outputting subsequent commands to the managed devices based on the determining step, wherein the subsequent commands are different from the initial commands.

23. The method according to claim 22 further comprising providing identified managed devices within an asset table.

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24. The method according to claim 22 further comprising executing Simple Network Management Protocol management programs using the managed devices and the management station.

25. The method according to claim 22 wherein the outputting and receiving individually comprise outputting and receiving using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communications.

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27. (Amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein the initial responses comprising failed responses.

28. The method according to claim 22 wherein the identifying comprises comparing the received initial responses with a device table to identify the device types of responding ones of the managed devices.

29. The method according to claim 28 further comprising updating the device table after the receiving.

30. The method according to claim 22 wherein the identifying comprises identifying the device types of the managed devices, and further comprising applying a plurality of management commands to the identified managed devices individually corresponding to respective device types of the identified managed devices.

31. (New) A method for discovering managed devices, the method comprising:
selecting one of a plurality of commands for transmission to one of the managed devices to trigger a response unique to the one managed device;
determining whether a combination of the one command and an associated response from the one managed device uniquely identifies the one managed device; and

selectively issuing another one of the plurality of commands based on the determining step, the other command being different from the one command.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

performing a look-up in a device table to determine device type information associated with the one managed device.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

storing the device type information in an asset table based on the determined device type information.
